

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-assisted method of evaluating an essay, comprising:
receiving an essay concerning an essay topic;
5 electronically comparing textual content of the essay with a first number of terms related to said essay topic;
identifying missed terms, the missed terms being those terms which are among said first number of terms, but are not present in the textual content of the essay; and
transmitting the missed terms.
10
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating and transmitting at least one score concerning the essay.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising generating and transmitting at least one
15 subscore concerning an aspect of the essay.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving an essay comprises receiving the essay over the internet, and said transmitting the missed terms comprises sending the missed terms over the internet.
20
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving an essay comprises receiving the essay from a first computer over a local area network, and said transmitting the missed terms comprises sending the missed terms over the local area network back to the first computer.
25
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising displaying the missed terms on the first computer.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein said comparing textual content is performed on a
30 second computer connected to the local area network, the second computer being distinct from the first computer.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting a selection of essay topics prior to receiving the essay, the selection of essay topics including said essay topic.
35

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising receiving information designating said essay topic, prior to comparing textual content.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying, and then transmitting,
5 included terms among said first number, the included terms being those terms which are among said first number of terms, and are present in the textual content of the essay.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating and transmitting at least one comment concerning the essay.

10

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating and transmitting at least one comment concerning an aspect of the essay.

13. A computer storage medium having executable software code, the executable
15 software code including:

code to receive an essay concerning an essay topic;

code to electronically compare textual content of the essay with a first number of terms related to said essay topic;

code to identify missed terms, the missed terms being those terms which are among
20 said first number of terms, but are not present in the textual content of the essay; and
code to transmit the missed terms.

14. The computer storage medium of claim 13, wherein the medium is selected from the group consisting of a hard disk, a floppy disk, and a CD-ROM.

25

15. The computer storage medium of claim 13, wherein the executable software code further includes code to identify and transmit included terms, the included terms being those terms which are among said first number of terms, and are present in the textual content of the essay.

30

16. The computer storage medium of claim 13, wherein the executable software code further includes code to generate and transmit a score concerning the essay.

17. The computer storage medium of claim 16, wherein the executable software code
35 further includes code to generate and transmit a subscore concerning an aspect of the essay.

18. The computer storage medium of claim 13, wherein the executable software code further includes code to generate and transmit a first comment concerning the essay.

19. The computer storage medium of claim 18, wherein the executable software code
5 further includes code to generate and transmit a second comment concerning an aspect of the essay.

20. The computer storage medium of claim 13, wherein the executable software code further includes code to transmit a selection of essay topics, the selection of essay topics
10 including said essay topic.

21. The computer storage medium of claim 20, wherein the executable software code further includes code to receive information designating said essay topic.

22. A computer-assisted method of evaluating an essay on an essay topic, the method comprising:

providing a first essay on said essay topic, the first essay being a model essay;

extracting a first set of terms found in said model essay;

receiving a second essay on said essay topic;

20 searching for terms within said first set, in said second essay; and

transmitting those terms within said first set which are not present in said second essay.

23. The computer-assisted method of claim 22, further comprising transmitting those
25 terms within said first set which are present in said second essay.

24. The computer-assisted method of claim 22, further comprising generating and transmitting a score concerning said second essay.

25. The computer-assisted method of claim 24, further comprising generating and transmitting a subscore concerning an aspect of said second essay.

26. The computer-assisted method of claim 22, further comprising receiving information designating said essay topic.

27. The computer-assisted method of claim 22, further comprising generating and transmitting a first comment concerning said second essay.

28. The computer-assisted method of claim 27, further comprising generating and transmitting a second comment concerning an aspect of said second essay.

29. A computer-assisted method of taking an essay examination comprising:
drafting an essay about an essay topic;
submitting the essay for evaluation by a computer; and
receiving a list of missed terms, the missed terms being those terms which are related to said essay topic but were not present in the essay that was drafted and submitted for evaluation.

30. The method of claim 29, further comprising receiving a list of included terms, the included terms being those terms which are related to said essay topic and are present in the essay that was drafted and submitted for evaluation.

31. The method of claim 29, further comprising receiving a score concerning said essay.

32. The method of claim 31, further comprising receiving a subscore concerning an aspect of said essay.

33. The method of claim 29, further comprising receiving a first comment concerning said essay.

34. The method of claim 33, further comprising receiving a second comment concerning an aspect of said essay.

35. The method of claim 29, further comprising:
receiving a list of possible essay topics; and
selecting one of said essay topics, prior to drafting the essay.

36. The method of claim 29, further comprising selecting a time period in which the essay is to be drafted.

37. The method of claim 29, wherein said drafting comprises revising an existing essay which previously was submitted for evaluation.

38. A computer system having associated therewith executable software code
5 configured to grade an essay, the executable software code including:
code to receive an essay concerning an essay topic;
code to electronically compare textual content of the essay with a first number of terms related to said essay topic;
code to identify missed terms, the missed terms being those terms which are among
10 said first number of terms, but are not present in the textual content of the essay; and
code to transmit the identified terms.

39. The computer system of claim 38, wherein the executable software code further includes code to identify and transmit terms among said first number which are present in
15 the textual content of the essay.

40. The computer system of claim 38, wherein the executable software code further includes code to generate and transmit a score concerning the essay.

20 41. The computer system of claim 40 wherein the executable software code further includes code to generate and transmit a subscore concerning an aspect of the essay.

42. The computer system of claim 38, wherein the executable software code further includes code to generate and transmit a first comment concerning the essay.
25

43 The computer system of claim 42, wherein the executable software code further includes code to generate and transmit a second comment concerning an aspect of the essay.

44. The computer system of claim 38, wherein the executable software code further
30 includes code to transmit a selection of essay topics, the selection of essay topics including said essay topic.

45. The computer system of claim 44, wherein the executable software code further includes code to receive information designating said essay topic.
35

46. A computer-assisted method of evaluating a document, the method comprising:
receiving a document from a computer;
electronically comparing textual content of the document with a predetermined list
comprising a first number of terms;

5 identifying missed terms, the missed terms being those terms which are among said
first number of terms, but are not present in said document; and
transmitting the missed terms to the computer.

47. A computer-assisted method of evaluating an essay, comprising:
10 transmitting a selection of essay topics;
receiving a selected essay topic, said selected essay topic being among said selection
of essay topics;

selecting an essay question from a plurality of essay questions related to said
selected essay topic;

15 transmitting said essay question;
receiving a first essay on said selected essay question;
extracting evaluation information associated with said selected essay question;
electronically comparing textual content of said first essay with a first set of terms
previously extracted from a model essay;

20 identifying missed terms among said first set, the missed terms being those terms
which are not present in the textual content of said first essay ;

transmitting the missed terms;
generating a score concerning said first essay ;
transmitting said score;

25 generating a subscore concerning an aspect of said first essay ;
transmitting said subscore;

generating a first comment concerning said first essay ;
transmitting said first comment;
generating a second comment concerning an aspect of said first essay ;

30 transmitting said second comment;

identifying included terms among said first set, the included terms being those terms
which are present in the textual content of said first essay; and
transmitting said included terms.

35

48. Computer storage medium having executable software code, the executable software code including:

code to transmit a selection of essay topics;

code to receive a selected essay topic, said selected essay topic being among said
5 selection of essay topics;

code to select an essay question from a plurality of essay questions related to said
selected essay topic;

code to transmit said selected essay question;

code to receive a first essay on said selected essay question;

10 code to extract evaluation information associated with said selected essay question;
code to electronically compare textual content of said first essay with a first set of
terms previously extracted from a model essay;

code to identify missed terms among said first set, the missed terms being those
terms which are not present in the textual content of said first essay;

15 code to transmit the missed terms;

code to generate a score concerning said first essay;

code to transmit said score;

code to generate a subscore concerning an aspect of said first essay;

code to transmit said subscore.

20 code to generate a first comment concerning said first essay;

code to transmit said first comment;

code to generate a second comment concerning an aspect of said first essay;

code to transmit said second comment;

25 code to identify included terms among said first set, the included terms being those
terms which are present in the textual content of said first essay; and

code to transmit said included terms.

49. A computer system having associated therewith executable software code
configured to grade an essay, the executable software code including:

30 code to transmit a selection of essay topics;

code to receive a selected essay topic, said selected essay topic being among said
selection of essay topics;

code to select an essay question from a plurality of essay questions related to said
selected essay topic;

35 code to transmit said selected essay question;

- code to receive a first essay on said selected essay question;
- code to extract evaluation information associated with said selected essay question;
- code to electronically compare textual content of said first essay with a first set of terms previously extracted from a model essay;
- 5 code to identify missed terms among said first set, the missed terms being those terms which are not present in the textual content of said first essay;
- code to transmit the missed terms;
- code to generate a score concerning said first essay ;
- code to transmit said score;
- 10 code to generate a subscore concerning an aspect of said first essay ;
- code to transmit said subscore.
- code to generate a first comment concerning said first essay ;
- code to transmit said first comment;
- code to generate a second comment concerning an aspect of said first essay ;
- 15 code to transmit said second comment;
- code to identify included terms among said first set, the included terms being those terms which are present in the textual content of said first essay; and
- code to transmit said included terms.
- 20 50. A computer-assisted method of taking an essay examination comprising:
- receiving a selection of essay topics;
- selecting an essay topic, said selected essay topic being among said selection of essay topics;
- transmitting said selected essay topic;
- 25 receiving an essay question related to said selected essay topic;
- drafting an essay on said essay question;
- submitting said essay;
- receiving a list of missed terms, said missed terms being those terms which are related to said essay question but were not present in the essay that was drafted and
- 30 submitted;
- receiving a score, said score being associated with the evaluation of said essay;
- receiving a subscore, said subscore being associated with the evaluation of an aspect of said essay;
- receiving a first comment, said first comment being associated with the evaluation
- 35 of said essay;

receiving a second comment, said second comment being associated with the evaluation of an aspect of said essay; and

receiving a list of included terms, said included terms being those terms which are related to said essay question and were present in the essay that was drafted and submitted.

5

51. The method of claim 50, wherein said drafting comprises revising an existing essay which previously was submitted for evaluation.

10

15

20

25

30

35